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meaning of “type” in the content of the present application. The applicant is open to an alternative suggestion from the examiner.

Claims 1-2, 10-12 and 13-18 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Jacobsen et al. (USP 6,198,394). Relative to claim 1, the examiner cites column 16, lines 46-60, as showing a building monitoring system.

“Numerous modifications can be made to the present invention without departing from the scope or spirit of the same. For example, an individual status unit could be made smaller and provided to residents of long-term care facilities. The size of the device could be reduced because it need not be as durable as the military version, and would require a much smaller range for radio communications. Rather than requiring nurses to track down patients to take their vital signs, the system for remotely monitoring personnel status of the present invention would enable nurses to determine the patients’ location, as well as their vital signs. If the information received indicated a problem, the location of the patient could be readily determined. Thus, a smaller number of nurses could be used while providing a higher level of care.” (Column 16, lines 46-60.)

That passage actually refers to physiological and location monitoring of patients in a long-term care facility. This is about as close the cited patent gets relative to the topic of a building. Jacobsen et al. does not disclose a building monitoring system. The facility is merely a place where the people being monitored reside. The present invention does relate to monitoring

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of buildings rather than patients. Claim 1 and the other independent claims are amended to better reflect the invention as a building monitoring system indicated in the respective preambles. The applicant contends that since the Jacobsen et al. art does not disclose such system the claims rejected on that art under 35 USC 102(e) and/or 35 USC 103(a) should be allowable.

Claims 1, 3-9, 23-29 and 31-34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Reis et al. (USP 5,973,613). The examiner indicates that Reis et al. disclose a building monitoring system and cites Figure 3 and column 11, lines 4-10. Figure 3 shows a communication region with an interrogator and a plurality of pagers. The text cited by the examiner states:

“In preferred embodiments, very high frequency (VHF) radio frequency is used in an air communication medium so that the transmitter power, antenna size requirements and device range capability are satisfactory for local communication ranges suitable for warehouses, buildings, vehicles and other similar local regions.” (Column 11, lines 4-10.)

Neither Figure 3 nor the quoted passage discloses a building monitoring system. Because the pager communication system or the like may be used in a building does not mean that it is used as a building monitor. The applicant did not see a building monitoring system claimed in the present application disclosed in Reis et al. The applicant contends that since the Reis et al. art does not disclose such system the claims rejected on that art under 35 USC 102(e) and/or 35 USC 103(a) should be allowable.

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The applicant very respectfully requests allowance of pending claims 1-34. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the present application, the Examiner is invited to call the below-named attorney at his direct number (612) 333-1847.

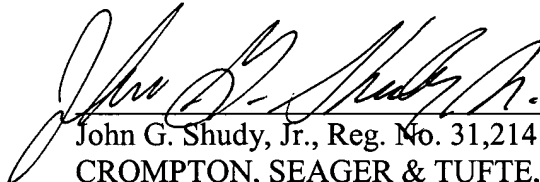
Respectfully submitted,

Michael A. Helgeson

By his Attorney,

Date:

7/10/02



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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

Claims 1, 3, 17, 23, 25, and 31 have been amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A building monitoring system utilizing bi-directional radio frequency communication comprising:

at least one master unit including a radio frequency transmitter and receiver; and

a plurality of remote units having a radio frequency transmitter and receiver, said remote units capable of transmitting to and receiving from said master unit of the building monitoring system.

3. (Amended) A building monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said remote units having a first low power consumption state in which said remote units can neither receive nor transmit, a second power consumption state in which said units can receive, and a third power consumption state in which said units can transmit, wherein said second and third [sates]states have higher power consumption than said first state.

17. (Amended) A building monitoring system utilizing bi-directional radio frequency communication comprising:

at least one master unit including a radio frequency transmitter and receiver;

a plurality of remote units each having a radio frequency transmitter and receiver, said remote units capable of transmitting to and receiving from said master unit of the building

monitoring system and capable of generating polling events in response to a poll message received from said master unit;

said remote units each having at least one timer for generating a timeout event;

said remote units each having at least one sensor for measuring selected variables; said remote units capable of generating a sensor event in response to a sensor change of measurement; and

said remote units each having a non-communicating state with low power consumption and in which said remote units can neither receive nor transmit, and a receiving state having higher power consumption than said non-communicating state and in which said units can receive, wherein said selected remote units are in said receiving state only after selected event occurrences, wherein said selected events are selected from the group consisting of timeout events, polling events, and sensor events.

23. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, comprising:

transmitting a message from the remote unit to the master unit of the building monitoring system; and

transmitting an acknowledge from the master unit to the remote unit indicating receipt of the message.

25. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit

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in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, said remote unit also having at least one sensor for producing a sensor change event, the method comprising:

waiting for the sensor change event while in said non-communicating state;

entering the transmitting state and transmitting a message upon detecting the sensor change event;

entering the receiving state and waiting for acknowledgment of said data transmission;

and

returning to the waiting for sensor change step.

31. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, the method comprising:

determining a time for communicating with said master;

waiting for said time while in said non-communicating state;

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changing to said transmitting state and transmitting a message upon attaining said determined time for communication;

waiting for acknowledgment of said transmission in said receiving state; and

returning to said determining step for determining a new time for communicating with said master.

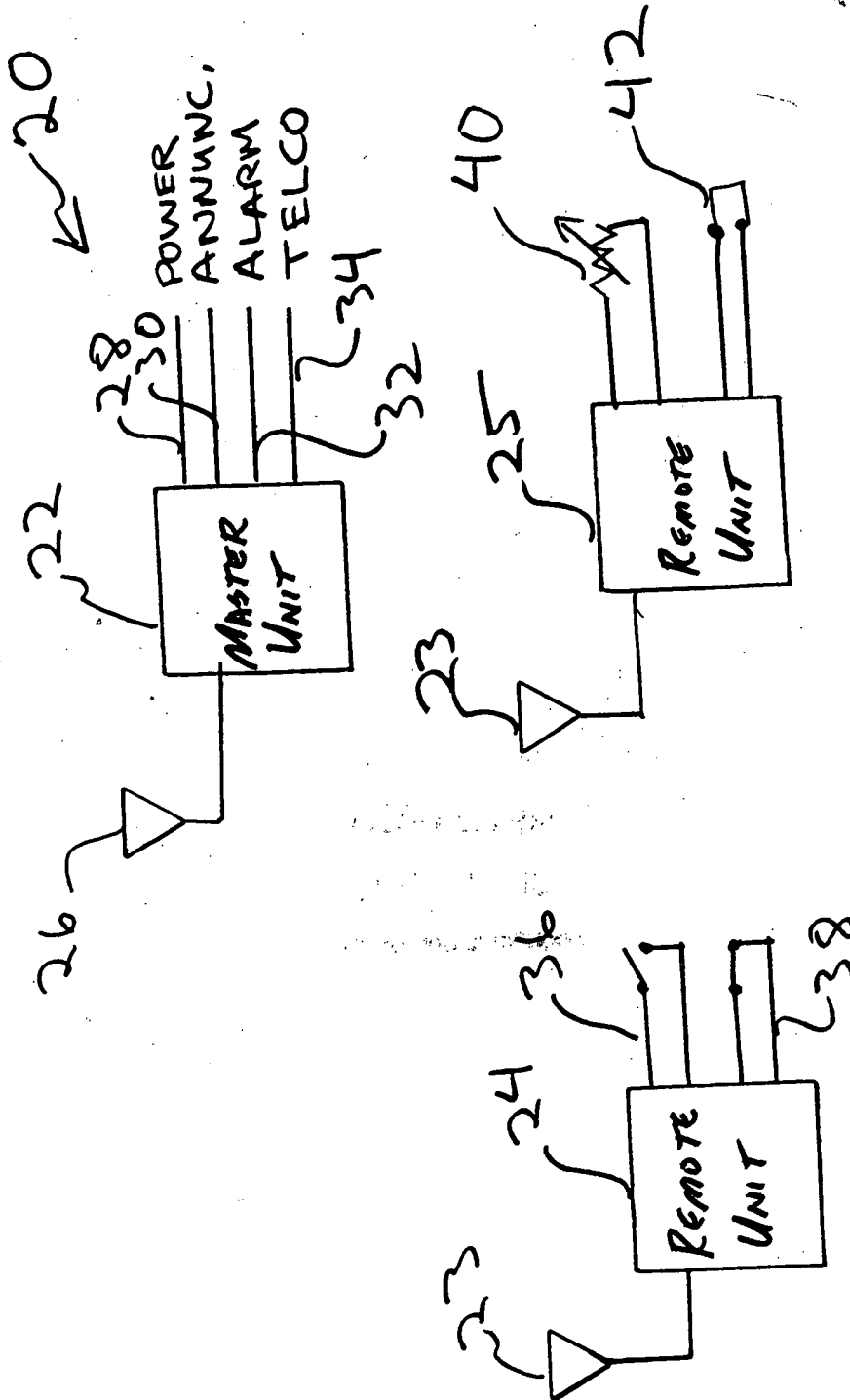
33. (Amended) A method for communicating between a remote unit and a master unit in a radio-frequency building monitoring system, wherein the remote unit is capable of transmitting to and receiving messages from the master unit of the building monitoring system, the remote unit further having a non-communicating low power consumption state in which said remote unit can neither receive nor transmit, a receiving state in which said remote unit can receive, and a transmitting state in which said remote unit can transmit, the method comprising:

providing a time signal from said master to said remote;

waiting while in said non-communicating state for a time interval corresponding to said provided time signal; and

changing to said transmitting state and transmitting a message after expiration of said time interval.

Fig. 1



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